

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-13 are currently amended. Claims 14-20 are new. No claims are cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-13 are objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to address these concerns. Therefore, reconsideration and withdraw of the objection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braue (U.S. Pat. No. 3,617,666; "Braue") in view of Talmage (U.S. Pat. No. 4,687,885; "Talmage"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the feature that the edges of the first conductive layer are encapsulated between the first and third mask layers and the edges of the second conductive layer are encapsulated between the second and third mask layers. Basis for these amendments can be found throughout the application as filed including in the description accompanying Fig. 4. Applicant notes that this feature is not disclosed in either Braue nor Talmage.

Further, the combination of Braue and Talmage does not disclose this feature. The Examiner states in Paragraph 4 that "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to provide a third mask layer in a form of a frame and a separator layer extending across the aperture of the third mask layer in Charles Braue, as suggested by Talmage, Jr. et al., in order to change the resiliency of the third mask layer."

In contrast, and as indicated in the present application, the present application addresses the problem of unwanted electrical contact occurring within a sensor comprising a plurality of conductive layers. Advantages and uses of the claimed sensor layer assembly are discussed in the description accompanying Fig. 4.

The assembly of the claimed invention features a separator layer configured to separate the first and second conductive layers when no pressure is applied to the sensor and to allow electrical contact between said first and second conductive layers during a mechanical interaction with said sensor. In addition, the assembly of the claimed invention features encapsulating the edges of the first conductive layer between the first and third mask layers and encapsulating the edges of the second conductive layer between the second and third mask layers. Thus, the present application teaches a method of assembling a plurality of layers to form a sensor by adhering mask layers formed from an electrically insulating material in a way that the edges of the first conductive textile layer are insulated from the edges of the second conductive textile layer. Neither Braue nor Talmage teach this feature. Moreover, the combination of Braue and Talmage fails to teach or suggest this aspect of the claimed invention. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner fails to provide, or teach the advantage of, the combination of features of the present invention as

claimed in claim 1 or claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdraw of these rejections.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 14-20 have been added to the application. Basis for claim 14 can be found in the description accompanying Figs. 2 and 3. Basis for claims 15-18 can be found in the description accompanying Fig. 2. Basis for claim 19 can be found in the description accompanying Fig. 4. Basis for claim 20 can be found in the description accompanying Fig. 2. These claims depend from independent claim 13 and thus are patentable for the same reasons as set forth above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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